

Introduced by Senator AlarconFebruary 24, 2006

An act relating to health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1779, as introduced, Alarcon. Rural doctor incentive program.

Existing law provides for the regulation of physicians and surgeons in the state.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to implement a rural doctor incentive program to give incentive to doctors who are recent medical school graduates to work in low-income, rural areas of the state, and to enact legislation to implement a program that would result in an increase in the number of students who come from low-income rural areas who enroll in medical schools through outreach programs and scholarships and grants.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Californians living in rural areas have to travel further to
- 4 get to a physician and surgeon to get necessary health care.
- 5 (b) Physicians and surgeons who work in rural areas are
- 6 overburdened with patients.
- 7 (c) It becomes nearly impossible for rural physicians and
- 8 surgeons to take a vacation, because they are the sole health care
- 9 provider for their patients.

1 (d) Physicians and surgeons are forced to deal with all the
2 health care problems that rural residents face, from prenatal care
3 for expecting mothers to broken bones in children to kidney
4 problems in seniors, forcing the physicians and surgeons to
5 become “experts” in all areas of health care.

6 (e) Low-income rural area residents suffer because of the lack
7 of accessible health care.

8 (f) It is hard to bring in new physicians and surgeons to rural
9 areas because of the overburdening number of patients and the
10 lack of incentive for physicians and surgeons to move to a rural
11 area.

12 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
13 to establish a rural doctor incentive program to provide
14 incentives to recently graduated physicians and surgeons to work
15 in low-income rural areas of the state, similar to programs used
16 to provide incentives for teachers to teach in inner city schools,
17 including, but not limited to, grants to assist in paying off student
18 loans, and to provide grants to help physicians and surgeons to
19 build and maintain clinics.

20 SEC. 3. It is also the intent of the Legislature to enact
21 legislation to implement a program that would result in an
22 increase in the number of students who come from low-income
23 rural areas who enroll in medical schools, as they are more likely
24 to move back to the areas from which they came and are more
25 likely to be more sensitive to the needs of that community,
26 through outreach programs and scholarships and grants to
27 students from rural areas who would like to attend medical
28 school.